

## MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 27, HOTEL SOMERSET

THIS FIRST day was taken up with registration at the Association's headquarters in the Hotel Somerset, and with preliminary sight-seeing in and around Boston.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 28, BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

At nine o'clock the Boston Medical Library opened its doors to the members of the Association, inviting them to a general inspection of its building and its treasures.

In John Ware Hall at ten o'clock the meeting formally commenced with a welcome to Boston on behalf of the Mayor, by Dr. C. F. Wilinsky, Deputy Health Commissioner and Director of Beth Israel Hospital. A second welcome followed in the name of the Boston Medical Library through its President, Dr. Lincoln Davis. Mr. James F. Ballard, President of the Association, then gave his address, bringing out many valuable practical points in his forward look into the Association's future.

Immediately thereafter the business meeting was opened by the President. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with and they were approved as they had been printed in the *Bulletin*. Reports were presented by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Manager of the Exchange, all of which were gratefully accepted. Mr. Frankenberger offered a rising vote of thanks to the Treasurer expressing the Association's appreciation of her many years' excellent service, a vote which was given with enthusiasm. An auditing committee was then appointed by the President, to examine the Treasurer's books and report at the next business session, this Committee to consist of Mr. Fleming, Mr. Keys, and Miss King.

The Program & Entertainment Committee made no formal report, allowing the results of their efforts to speak for themselves. The Membership Committee and the Committee on Publication gave reports which were accepted with much appreciation. The President announced that the report of the Committee on a List of Health Works for Lay Reading was in the hands of the Executive Committee, which had it under consideration. The Committee on Indexing Current Medical Literature, the Committee on Periodicals and Serial Publications, and the Committee on Public Documents all submitted their reports, which were heard with approval and acceptance. Adjournment followed.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

After a delicious buffet luncheon as guests of the Boston Medical Library, the members convened in Sprague Hall at 2:30 for the afternoon session, which was devoted to dental questions. The President opened the meeting, turning it over immediately to Dr. Sterling N. Loveland, Librarian of Harvard

Dental School, who conducted it thereafter. Dr. Leroy M. S. Miner, Dean of the Harvard Dental School, welcomed the dental librarians, stressing the growing importance of libraries in dental education and the increased influence of medicine and medical methods on dentistry.

Miss Marjorie Lewis read the report of the Committee on a Dental Index, and considerable discussion followed.

*Mrs. Hunt.* I wonder if somebody would be willing to say something a little more definite about some of the things Miss Lewis' report did not bring out. For instance, whether they would like to have the journals listed in the *Index* exactly in the order of the titles, or as they are at present, some with "dental" first and some with "dental" transposed. Then the *Index* at present uses roman numerals. I know the Medical Library Association in the past has asked the dental periodicals to use arabic numerals. Would they prefer that in the dental *Index*?

Then the question of subject headings is one about which, if we could get the librarians to express their likes and dislikes, we might be able to offer something that would be a definite help to the American Dental Association. For instance, if we had the dental *Index* indexed as a medical librarian would do it, it would be very helpful to librarians that have combined medical and dental libraries and would make it much easier for the medical libraries. On the other hand, a great deal of material is then indexed under such indefinite subjects as "dentistry" or "teeth" and headings which are not particularly helpful to the dentist in general practice or to the dental student who is working in a strictly dental library. The question is: Shall we follow medical headings which are already fairly well established, for our dental literature, or try to develop our own strictly dental headings for our dental literature? Mrs. Marshall was asked to be on the Committee last year. The suggestion was made that she write to various librarians and ask them to send in different sections covering four or five letters of their index; that should show us quite definitely what the majority of the dental librarians are using as a system of indexing, and it would give us a little something to go on. Of course in the American Dental Association the *Index* is gotten up primarily for the dental profession and the dental libraries, but we want to make it of the greatest use to the greatest number, and it may be that the medical and dental libraries would have exactly the same viewpoint as to what would be the most helpful type of index. Miss Lela Sinkey was nice enough to send in the list of dental subject headings which has been worked out by the Ohio State University Dental library. If the libraries would even send in under one large subject everything that came up, so that we could get an idea on which to base a comparison, it would be helpful. It is necessary to see what headings are used rather generally and what headings are used by only one or two librarians. It would have to be decided whether to give the preference to the type of index that would be preferable to a medical librarian, or whether we should try to make it a strictly dental index primarily for the dentists and dental students.

*Question.* Would you include some of the medical journals?

*Mrs. Hunt.* No. It would be a strictly dental index. In our own library, including the foreign, we get about two hundred journals currently. That is just about as much as can be handled in a dental index. It is only a fraction of

what the American Medical Association indexes, but to me it would be better for them to index completely the medical literature, and let us index the dental literature. I don't think they should overlook the dental articles just because they appear in medical literature. It is their problem more than it is ours. Or, the American Medical Association could co-operate with the American Dental Association and have a joint dental-medical index.

*Mr. Frankenger.* I think the dental index, if it is to have real value, should be arranged more especially to serve the needs of the dental profession. Subject headings should of necessity, be subdivided more minutely so that articles in dental journals will be indexed to aid dentists in looking up a particularly fine point in the literature. In the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* dental articles are grouped largely under "Dentistry" or "Teeth."

If the dental index would include the articles in dental periodical publications and the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* articles relating to dentistry in medical journals, the job of indexing the literature of interest to dentists would be rather completely done.

The American Medical Association is preparing a new edition of subject headings used in the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*. If, through conference and understanding, a similar group of subject headings could be decided upon for use in the dental index and both indexes arranged to use the same headings in classifying dental articles, it would establish uniformity.

One other point to be emphasized in connection with dental publications is the use of roman numerals. I think we should further the work inaugurated by our former member, the late Mr. Robert, in advocating the use of arabic numerals.

*Mrs. Hunt.* 1939 is the beginning of a three-year period of the dental *Index*. The *Index* for '36, '37 and '38 is in process of preparation. But beginning with 1939 any radical changes that have been proposed can be made, provided they are decided upon before the beginning of 1939. This is really our last chance for three years, you might say, to make any drastic changes.

Discussion on whether the *Index* is wanted on cards or quarterly sheets would be very helpful. Of course index cards are expensive. In the past a few libraries, about sixteen, subscribed to them, receiving these index cards monthly. Subject headings have now been added in addition to the classification numbers. The question has come up as to whether it would be preferable to have quarterly mimeographed sheets rather than monthly cards. We may be able to cut the cost slightly by having the quarterly style, but not much. The mimeographed sheets could be bound. Four quarters could be bound in a year, for two years, and at the end of the third year a regular printed volume would be sent out, as it has been in the past. Lots of people ask to have the *Indexes* printed every two years, but the cost would be absolutely prohibitive. The *Index* costs about five thousand dollars a year now over and above what is taken in in subscriptions, and the Association is not very anxious to increase it. The mimeographed sheet would save a little in the mailing, being mailed every three months instead of every month. The difference would probably not be more than two or three dollars a year. It is just a matter of which would be the more convenient.

*Miss Lewis.* Mimeographed sheets, not bound at the end of the year, would not stand up very well for reference use.

*Mrs. Hunt.* By the end of the year you would have to look under four sections. One or two said they would prefer quarterly sheets instead of monthly cards, if the quarterly sheets could be cumulative. Any possible saving would be more then wiped out in having to handle that material three or four times instead of once.

The *Index* for '35 has just been published. If, in the future, the *Index* would come out promptly at the close of the year, we would never have as many cards to file as we have had in the past. Those who have bought enough filing cases to take care of the cards in the past will not have to buy any more.

*Question.* Has the Association ever considered the possibility of utilizing the services of the Wilson Company for printing the material? I think the Wilson Company would be glad at least to confer with us on the project, and the American Dental Association would get some idea of the cost.

*Mrs. Hunt.* I would not want to say as to that. I think the Wilson Company was one that was given an opportunity to bid on publishing the *Index* several years ago. Each time when the *Index* is published, various publishers are asked to bid on the printing. You see the American Dental Association has only recently taken over officially the management of the *Index*. During the lifetime of Dr. Black, this was left largely to him. Of course the *Index* was his idea and it has only been within recent months that the Association has taken an active part in the work of getting it out.

Another thing: in the past the *Index* has put the volume number, then the year, then the paging. In the last cards we got, the order was: volume number, month, year, and paging. Personally I should prefer volume, page, month, and year.

*Mrs. Cunningham.* In regard to the roman numerals, as Chairman of the Periodicals Section of the Association, I think it is extremely important to follow the arabic numerals.

*Mrs. Hunt.* This next matter is not really connected with the dental *Index*, but the American Association of Dental Editors has recently gotten out a list of abbreviations for dental periodicals. There are certain things on this list that I don't agree with, but perhaps other people would. This is intended to be signed and returned to the Association of Dental Editors. If you don't agree as a whole with the abbreviations which they have up for adoption, I think it would be very well to say so now and not wait until after they are adopted.

*Question.* Has that list been published anywhere?

*Mrs. Hunt.* Not this exact list. A very similar list was published in the *Journal of Dental Research* in December, 1937, Dr. McBride's list. He uses single letter abbreviations, as the letter "D" for "dentistry." As long as you are in the strictly dental field, "D" is all right, but there is also the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. If they should decide "D" stood for "dietetic," you would have two journals of exactly the same abbreviations published in the same city, which can lead to confusion. There are already two journals using "J.A.D.A."; the *Journal of the Australian Dental Association* lists itself that way and we list ourselves that way also.

As to subject-headings, it is a matter of whether we would like to develop something and ask the medical libraries and others to follow the headings,

or whether we want to continue to use things that have already been worked out by the Library of Congress and the medical librarians. Shall we be followers instead of leaders?

*Miss Doe.* Speaking for both a medical and a dental library, I should say we are not satisfied with the dental headings we have now; we really need new headings to be worked out.

*Mrs. Hunt.* There is a committee on nomenclature. They are working on a more exact terminology all the time, and undoubtedly no matter what type of subject heading is developed, changes will have to be made from time to time as the nomenclature is modified.

*Chairman.* How do you feel in regard to the numbering, whether to use roman or arabic numbers? All those in favor of using the roman numerals, say "Aye." All those opposed say "No." It is very clear that you want the arabic.

*Mrs. Cunningham.* The whole thing has been held up to a certain extent because of the fact that we are waiting for a report from the American Standards Association. Also the whole matter is to be brought before the International Federation for Documentation which meets in Oxford during September of this year. It seems important to do this because there is no hope of getting standards adopted by the foreign journals unless the project becomes international in scope. The work is going forward, but it will take a long time because there are many groups involved. However I feel that we have already gone far enough to make a perfectly definite statement about the adoption of arabic numerals and a standard form for references for the dental index.

*Mrs. Hunt.* Several people have said they would like to have a list of the new dental books in the front of the dental *Index*. Would others find that a convenience? (Many hands were raised.)

Would you mind asking how many would be willing to send in the beginning of their list of subject headings through three or four letters of the alphabet (or anybody who feels more generous could send in a complete list of subject headings), so we can get an idea of them: "Teeth—bacteriology," or "Bacteriology—teeth." Much indexing, I think, is a matter of preference, but, if we can, we want to suit the preference of the majority. We need a partial list of headings to tell what system is used in the majority of libraries. If we could have the headings by the first of August that would give us a little time to work them over and see what subjects are used rather commonly and those that are perhaps debatable.

*Chairman.* Those who are willing to send perhaps the first ten of your headings, raise your hands. (Chairman counts ten hands.)

*Mrs. Hunt.* The subject of cross references has not come up. Does anybody have any suggestions about that?

*Miss Lewis.* I object to one thing in the *Black Index*. When you look for an article it is never listed under more than one heading.

*Mrs. Hunt.* I have here some cross references from Mrs. Mann that she has developed recently. She did not send them to more than one or two libraries. I have also the subject headings of the old *Black Index*, and the new *Index* which has just been published.

*Miss McCann.* Are you going to eliminate discussions with selected articles, - reprinted articles and things like that?

*Miss Hunt.* The reprinted articles are largely eliminating themselves. More and more the dental journals are refusing to reprint. In the foreign field, for instance in Australia, they still do reprinting of selected articles, and these we will probably continue to include, so that those people who don't happen to have our American periodicals can still find the articles in the *Index* and read them as they are reprinted in their own journals. The discussions are largely being eliminated.

*Miss McCann.* What about reports, proceedings and monographs? —

*Mrs. Hunt.* I haven't given any consideration to that at all. It should be decided whether people want to have the monographs and reports included in the *Index*.

It was moved and voted that Miss Lewis's report be accepted.

Miss Coffman read the report of the Committee on a Union List for Dental Periodicals. She also said that she was uncertain whether she would be able to continue as chairman of this Committee, and asked if the members would accept Dr. Hackh in her place, though she would be willing to continue to serve on the Committee. The report was duly accepted with thanks, and Dr. Hackh was voted the new chairman.

The meeting adjourned.

#### TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

Once more the Association was the Library's guest, this time to see and hear an original play in one act, "A Medical Library of the Fifteenth Century," written by "Monseigneur Jalard Balmes" (our President, James Ballard?). The performance was staged and directed by Mr. Ballard, the parts played by doctors and friends of the Library, costumes and properties likewise contributed by them. The medieval atmosphere was exceedingly well maintained by cast and setting, and enhanced by the central glow of a magnificent, candle-lighted El Greco painting, lent by Dr. Michel Pijoan, who, incidentally, played the leading part, that of Keeper of the Books. It was an evening of great pleasure, of pride in the medical librarian's profession and in the skill of those who portrayed it.

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The session was opened in Amphitheatre A by the President's introduction of Dr. C. Sidney Burwell, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, who welcomed the Association on behalf of the Medical School.

The President then turned the meeting over to Mr. Herman H. Henkle, Director of the School of Library Science, Simmons College, under whose aegis an Institute for Medical Librarians was presented.\*

Mr. Henkle explained the purpose and plan of the Institute, "Guide to Medical Literature."

The first speaker was Dr. Henry R. Viets, Librarian of the Boston Medical

\* Papers presented at the symposium will be published, with some changes of titles and other corrections, in the next number of the *Bulletin*. Ed.

Library, who discussed the "Bibliography of Medicine." Mrs. Eileen R. Cunningham, Librarian of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, followed with a paper on "Reference Books in the Field of Medicine." With this she had prepared a mimeographed list of outstanding titles, which she kindly made available to all who applied for it.

Next on the program was Miss Isabelle T. Anderson, Librarian of the Ramsey County Medical Society, St. Paul, whose address on "Textbooks and General Treatises" covered one of the basic divisions of medical literature. She was followed by Mr. Henkle, whose paper on "Periodicals" demonstrated the comparative importance of bio-chemical journals as gauged by citations in the *Annual review on biochemistry*.

Here followed a general discussion of various points in connection with the morning's papers.

The meeting adjourned at twelve o'clock to permit inspection of the Harvard Medical School Library before luncheon in Vanderbilt Hall as guests of the Medical School.

The afternoon session, beginning at 2:30 in the Amphitheatre, covered "Ancient and Special Medical Literature." Under the continued chairmanship of Mr. Henkle, Dr. Sanford V. Larkey, Librarian of the Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University, opened with a talk on "Medical Literature of the Past." Dr. John F. Fulton, Sterling Professor of Physiology at Yale, explored a special bibliographical field, "The Literature of Physiology."

The afternoon closed with an address by Mr. James F. Ballard, Director of the Boston Medical Library, who spoke on "Medieval and Renaissance Medical Texts," illustrating his words with copies of the original books, kindly lent for the occasion by his Library.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, HOTEL SOMERSET

The Annual Banquet of the Association was held at the Hotel Somerset at 7:30, a gala occasion indeed. The President, as Toastmaster, read telegrams and letters of greeting to the Association from absent members: Miss Campbell, Mrs. Cooksley, Dr. Rothrock, and Dr. Steiner. Dr. Reginald Fitz, Director of the Evans Memorial, Boston University School of Medicine, spoke most entertainingly on the part played in colonial medical literature by rum, showing lantern-slides to prove his points and capping his words with the presentation to Miss Noyes, a charter member of the Association, of a tiny bottle of the spirituous liquor.

#### THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 30, BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY

The second business session was opened at 9:30 in John Ware Hall, the President in the Chair. He presented for consideration the invitation given by the American Library Association for this Association to appoint a representative to a Joint Committee which would investigate the problems of indexing and abstracting services in the major fields of research, a committee in which other interested societies had also been asked to join. The President emphasized the fact that the activities of such a Joint Committee might entail expense, and asked for discussion concerning the appointment of a representative. Miss Bayne asked where the headquarters would be, the President replying

he supposed they would be at the American Library Association office. It was moved and voted that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee with full powers to act.

The President referred to the suggestion made in his address two days before, concerning the need for reconsideration of the Association's expenses and income. It was moved and voted that a special Committee on Increase in Dues and in Standards for Admission be appointed to consider the situation and report its recommendations to the Executive Committee by January 1, 1939.

Col. Harold W. Jones, Librarian of the Army Medical Library, gave a brief statement on "The Future of the Army Medical Library," outlining its needs and hopes. Mr. Frankenberger offered the following resolution, and moved its adoption:

*Whereas*, the Medical Library Association, assembled at its Fortieth Annual Meeting in Boston, June 30, 1938, notes with keen gratification the unanimous action of the Congress, supported by the whole-hearted approval of the Medical Profession, in passing the enabling act authorizing the erection of a new building for the Army Medical Library and Museum, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we urge the next Congress to appropriate at the earliest possible time the necessary funds to complete the erection of this new building as speedily as possible, and that a copy of this resolution be published in the *Bulletin* of the Association, transmitted to the press, and sent to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was unanimously endorsed.

The next business to come up was the choice of a meeting-place for 1939. Miss Hallam expressed doubt that the new building for the University of Oregon School of Medicine would be finished next year and she therefore hesitated to make their invitation definite. The Academy of Medicine of Northern New Jersey, through Miss Naylor, invited the Association to meet with them in Newark next year. A vote was taken, and Newark was accepted. Miss Hallam thereupon extended a formal invitation to the Association for the meeting in Portland in 1940.

Miss Grob asked if it would be possible to secure early publication of the check-list of medical directories mentioned by Miss Strieby as having been compiled by her Library, even if that meant issuing it without annotations. Mr. Ballard said it could be printed in the *Bulletin* as a preliminary list, to be later reprinted in more complete form. Miss Strieby agreed to do this.

The Auditing Committee reported that they had examined the Treasurer's books and found them in good order.

Mrs. Irish gave a message of greeting to the Association from Dr. George Dock, who was unable to attend.

The following amendment to the By-Laws had been circulated to members four weeks before the meeting, and its adoption recommended by the Executive Committee:

Article II, Chapter I. Strike out the words, "The annual dues shall be \$10.00 for Library members, \$5.00 for Supporting members, and \$2.00 for Professional members," and substitute therefor, "The annual dues shall be \$10.00 for Library members, of which \$3.00 shall be for subscription to the *Bulletin* of the Association; \$5.00 for Supporting members, of which \$2.00 shall be for the *Bulletin*; and \$2.00 for Professional members, of which \$1.00 shall be for the *Bulletin*."



The object of this change was to make possible the entry of the *Bulletin* as second-class matter, thereby reducing the cost of mailing to one and a half cents a pound instead of the present parcel post zone rates. The Post Office requires that organizations supplying their members free of charge with a periodical publication shall allocate in their By-Laws definite amounts for the publication in order to be entitled to second-class entry. The adoption of the amendment was now moved and voted.

The ballot for officers for 1938-39 as proposed by the Nominating Committee was read as follows:

President	Mr. James F. Ballard
Vice-President	Dr. George R. Minot
Secretary	Miss Janet Doe
Treasurer	Miss Louise D. C. King
Executive Committee	Miss Charlotte E. Coffman
(for three years)	Miss Mary Louise Marshall
Nominating Committee	Miss Frida Pliefke
(for three years)	

Further nominations were called for from the floor by the President, but none being forthcoming, it was voted that the nominations be closed, and that the Secretary cast one ballot for the officers as presented by the Nominating Committee, which was done.

Mr. Frankenberger moved a rising vote of thanks to the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical and Dental Schools and all those associated with them, who prepared for the Association this splendid program and entertained it with such delightful hospitality. The vote was given with unanimity and energy.

Adjournment followed.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANOTHER year of the Association work has passed and it is time to account for the accomplishments of the fortieth year of the Association's existence.

At the last annual meeting, Miss Florence McRae was elected a member of the Executive Committee. The Committee and the Association suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs. Rosa M. Hibbard. Her sudden passing came as a severe shock to us all. She had always served the Association faithfully and well during her many years of membership; and her charm and pleasing personality will be missed by all the members. It is with great regret that we record the death of Dr. John W. Farlow, an Honorary member and a former President, and of Dr. Lawrason Brown, Dr. Thomas B. Futch, Dr. Isaac I. Lemann, and Dr. John Wyckoff, Supporting members. Miss Charlotte E. Coffman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Hibbard on the